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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR B Lujan ORIGINAL DATE 2/26/07
LAST UPDATED _____ HB HJM 50
SHORT TITLE Northern NM College Sostenga! Center SB _____
ANALYST Wilson

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY07	FY08	FY09	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.1	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 50 recognizes Sostenga!, the center for sustainable food, agriculture and environment at northern New Mexico College as a state resource for participatory research and community involvement for environmental health, food security and economic development in northern New Mexico, and that this resource enhances the State's capability to address the public health problems of diabetes, obesity and rural economic and community development.

The memorial requests that the Office of the Governor to provide information to the Department of Health and the Economic Development Department (EDD) that Sostenga!, the center for sustainable food, agriculture and environment at Northern New Mexico College, is a resource for participatory research, community involvement, environmental health, food security and economic development.

The memorial also requests that the Office of the Governor to direct the EDD to provide support in the form of business development assistance and assistance in the creation of a food cooperative to sell local produce and value-added products in Rio Arriba County and that the EDD report to the appropriate legislative interim committee regarding the level of support to Sostenga! and the related food cooperative initiatives by November 2007.

Furthermore, the memorial resolves that the Office of the Governor and any appropriate state agencies should include representatives of Sostenga! in health, economic development and food security initiatives, particularly where the assets of northern New Mexico may be utilized or its needs may be addressed.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no fiscal implications.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

New Mexico is ranked first in the nation in food insecurity and third in hunger.

Low-income New Mexico families spend as much as 26% of their annual income on food, a proportion that is double that of the national average.

Evidence suggests that many New Mexicans, especially those living in rural areas, do not have adequate access to healthy, affordable and culturally appropriate foods because they lack access to grocery stores and transportation.

Health problems caused by poor nutrition, including obesity and diabetes, cost New Mexico \$324,000,000 annually.

These health problems can be remedied with improved nutrition through adequate access to healthy, affordable and culturally appropriate foods.

Farm and ranch land has been supplanted by real estate development, particularly in northern New Mexico

Agricultural producers are increasingly searching for additional economic development activities, such as office and technical work, to augment a chosen agrarian lifestyle.

Sustenance farming has been the life blood of northern New Mexico.

Northern New Mexico College strives to expand the college's capacity to address these issues through Sostenga!, the center for sustainable food, agriculture and environment and its commercial kitchen to promote healthy eating and lifestyles, work force development, value-added food production, entrepreneurship and management.

Northern New Mexico College's Sostenga! Center seeks to develop educational programs, community resources and a food cooperative to provide healthy local produce, support local farmers and market value-added local products.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The staffs of EDD will have to provide support in the form of business development assistance and assistance in the creation of a food cooperative. This can be handled as part of their ongoing responsibilities.

DW/csd